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**Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family**

**Promotion and protection of the rights of children**

## Letter dated 14 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Panama Declaration signed by the Heads of State and Government of the 21 Ibero-American countries, meeting at the Tenth Ibero-American Summit held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, on 17 and 18 November 2000. The Declaration devotes special attention to children and adolescents with a view to examining policies and promoting programmes and action that will ensure respect for their rights, their well-being and their all-round development. I also have the honour to transmit the text of the declarations adopted at the preparatory meetings for the Summit.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 103 and 110.

*(Signed)* Ramón A. **Morales Quijano**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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# Annexes to the letter dated 14 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Annex I

### Panama Declaration

### "United for children and adolescents, the basis of justice and equity in the new millennium"

1. We Heads of State and Government of the 21 Ibero-American countries, meeting in Panama City, Republic of Panama, on 18 and 19 November 2000, convinced that, in order to achieve sustainable development, the consolidation of democracy, equity and social justice and based on the principles of the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights, it is strategically important to devote special attention to children and adolescents, hereby decide, once again, to examine together the situation of children and adolescents in Ibero-America with a view to formulating policies and promoting programmes and activities that will ensure respect for their rights, their well-being and their all-round development.

2. We welcome the progress made since the First Ibero-American Summit, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, and note with satisfaction the considerable affinities that unite and consolidate the Ibero-American community of nations as a valuable forum for political coordination and solidarity and one which is playing an increasingly active and influential role internationally.

3. We reaffirm our commitment to promote and defend democracy and the rule of law; political pluralism and cultural identity; civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development; and respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-intervention, non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations, peaceful settlement of disputes and the right of every people to build its own political system, freely and in peace, stability and justice, principles which form part of the legacy that we are passing on to the children and adolescents of Ibero-America.

4. Convinced that the expansion of international trade is vitally important for our countries' prosperity, we reiterate our individual and collective commitment to strengthening a free, open, non-discriminatory, secure and predictable multilateral trading system, regional integration, open regionalism and the strengthening of economic relations among the various regions of the world in conditions of equity.

5. Accordingly, we vigorously reject any extraterritorial application of national laws or unilateral measures which contravene international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the international trade rules currently in force, we reiterate the urgent need to eliminate such measures and we once again urge the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the application of the Helms-Burton Act, in keeping with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

6. We draw attention to the fact that the combined population of our countries will soon total 600 million inhabitants and that the majority of these are children and

adolescents and a source of creativity, energy, dynamism, initiative and social renewal.

We welcome the fact that most of our countries have managed to reduce infant mortality and under-5 mortality rates, eradicate some diseases that can be prevented by immunization, increase school enrolment and completion rates in primary education and reduce illiteracy. However, the persistence of high rates of poverty and extreme poverty, situations of social exclusion and socio-economic inequality, inadequate health care and education coverage and shortcomings and deficiencies in a number of indicators demands a renewed collective effort to build on positive trends and ensure the effective observance of children's and adolescents' rights.

7. It must also be emphasized that children and adolescents form an age group which, by its very nature, is particularly susceptible to the effects of negative socio-economic factors, and that firm action must be taken against those factors in order to avoid or significantly reduce the disruptive effects of the weakening of the fabric of social and family life, which causes situations such as family abandonment, irresponsible parenthood and lawbreaking.

**Strategic guidelines**

8. We recognize the fundamental importance of children and adolescents as subjects of law in our societies and the guiding, normative role of the State in the design and implementation of social policies for their benefit and as the guarantor of their rights, and we reiterate our commitment to lay the foundations for the full development of their potential and their integration in society, given the opportunities and challenges of today's globalized world.

Accordingly, we reaffirm our adherence to the principles and purposes enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and in other universal and regional international conventions, declarations and instruments which pledge our Governments' willingness to ensure respect for the rights of children and adolescents, their access to higher levels of well-being and their effective participation in programmes for their all-round development.

**Action for equity and social justice**

9. Convinced that our children and adolescents should live full and healthy lives in which their rights are assured and protected, we shall continue to promote national policies and programmes for development with equity and social justice and shall endeavour to assign increased resources to social spending, especially health, education, culture, science and technology. We therefore agree on the need to:

(a) Ensure the exercise of the right of children to be registered at birth and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by their parents, in keeping with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and promote legislative, administrative and other measures to achieve these ends.

(b) Continue to promote our strong, rich cultural roots, customs and traditions, with full respect for the individual characteristics and values of each country, to which end we shall work towards an all-round, meaningful education, respectful of linguistic, ethnic and cultural diversity and gender equity, that contributes to human development.

(c) Make efforts to ensure that by 2015 at the latest, all children in Ibero-America have access to early childhood education and to free, compulsory primary education, based on the principles of non-discrimination, equity, relevance, quality and effectiveness.

Accordingly, we shall promote innovative programmes of social incentives, such as school scholarship programmes, to enable the neediest families to ensure that all their children attend school on a regular basis.

(d) Encourage the free circulation of information, at every level, on the rights of children and adolescents, in a manner which is conducive to their constructive involvement in society and the expression of their ideas and creativity and which is reflected in daily life and in the functioning of institutions.

(e) Promote the use of information technologies in educational and training processes, including open and distance education. To that end, we shall promote the development of computer programmes and provide the necessary infrastructure and equipment to give children and adolescents access to these technologies.

(f) Begin working together to promote the free flow of information and communication among Ibero-American educational, academic and scientific bodies by eliminating existing regulatory barriers and allowing the free use of all technological media, satellite facilities or the facilities of communications providers available in Ibero-America.

(g) Strengthen food security programmes in each country, including in schools, accompanying them with nutrition education and information campaigns, with special emphasis on nursing mothers, small children and pregnant women.

(h) Strive to extend social security systems to the greatest possible number of families and increase access to integrated health care services, especially for children, pregnant women and teenage mothers, in order to reduce maternal mortality in Ibero-America by at least 50 per cent by 2010.

(i) Take urgent action to investigate, prevent, treat and control HIV/AIDS, given the alarming upsurge in this disease and its social and economic implications, and promote greater international cooperation in this area.

(j) Incorporate in the formal and non-formal education systems sex education programmes, involving the family and the community, which promote responsible sexual behaviour, including responsible fatherhood and motherhood and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, early pregnancy and early parenthood.

(k) Give high priority to tackling the housing shortage, including access to drinking water, sanitation and other infrastructures which provide the necessities of life, recognizing that proper housing is conducive to family integration, contributes to social equity and reinforces feelings of belonging, safety and human solidarity, all of which are essential elements in the lives of children and adolescents.

(l) Implement national strategies and programmes for children and adolescents in difficult social circumstances and at risk, such as orphans, abandoned children and adolescents and those working or living on the streets.

(m) Promote the adoption of measures for children and adolescents with disabilities, such as rehabilitation and education programmes. Give wider publicity to adoption policies and campaign for children working or living on the streets.

(n) Continue developing policies to promote sports and the healthy, creative use of children's and adolescents' free time, so as to ensure their proper physical and mental growth.

10. Recognizing that poverty and extreme poverty, unequal income distribution, social exclusion and domestic violence are the main reasons why children and adolescents enter the labour market early, stay on the streets, are economically or sexually exploited, migrate, break the law and are placed at risk, we hereby agree to:

(a) Continue making every effort significantly to reduce the high levels of poverty and extreme poverty in which parts of our populations live, in keeping with the commitments made at the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the World Summit for Social Development and beyond (Copenhagen+5) and in the Millennium Declaration.

(b) Continue promoting economic and social policies which strengthen the family as the fundamental basis of our societies and which promote family unity, coexistence and integration.

(c) Promote legislative action and adopt stringent measures to punish those who take part or collaborate in committing crimes of trafficking in, kidnapping, selling organs of or sexually exploiting children and adolescents and any other illicit activity which violates their dignity and rights. Moreover, establish international cooperation and information mechanisms for the prevention, control and punishment of these crimes and the rehabilitation of children and adolescents affected by them.

(d) Express the profound concern of the Ibero-American countries at the existence of cases of international abduction of children by one of their parents.

(e) Promote joint action to guarantee respect for the rights of migrant children and adolescents, particularly those subjected to manifestations of xenophobia, discrimination and cruel and degrading treatment. Likewise, promote initiatives for the effective criminalization and punishment of the illegal traffic in persons.

(f) Design national policies and treatment models or judicial systems for minors, according to the domestic legislation in force, which include crime prevention measures and ensure respect for the guarantees of due process, as well as the reintegration of young offenders in their families and in society. Continue modernizing institutions for the treatment and rehabilitation of young offenders and take appropriate action to avoid their confinement in adult prisons.

(g) Urge countries that have not yet done so to consider the possibility of signing, ratifying or acceding to ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition of and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, ILO Convention No. 138 concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption and the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

(h) Strengthen and promote public policies designed to prevent and eradicate domestic violence and to protect child and adolescent victims of such violence.

11. Insist on the urgent need to modify unsustainable production and consumption patterns which contribute to the overexploitation of natural resources. Accordingly, we agree that the Rio+10 meeting affords an opportunity to give renewed impetus to sustainable development, thereby promoting the socio-economic well-being of present and future generations.

12. We note with concern that in the armed conflicts which have occurred and are still occurring in some of our countries, children and adolescents have been affected by their involvement in the conflict, the destruction of the family nucleus and forced displacement, and that the physical and psychological consequences of these situations must therefore be addressed. To deal with this situation, we propose to:

(a) Take concerted action to rehabilitate and protect children and adolescents affected by armed conflicts.

(b) Reiterate our satisfaction at the decision by an increasing number of States to accede to or ratify the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, especially in view of their appalling effects on the civilian population, particularly children and adolescents.

We agree on the urgent need to increase cooperation in the prevention of accidents involving anti-personnel mines and in the rehabilitation of victims with a view to facilitating their reintegration in the socio-economic life of their countries. We therefore appeal to States which have the financial resources and the necessary technology to continue providing their assistance.

We welcome the holding in Managua, Nicaragua, in September 2001 of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention.

(c) Make the necessary efforts to achieve tangible results at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

13. We welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which are open for signature at United Nations Headquarters. We urge countries that have not yet done so to consider the possibility of signing, ratifying or acceding to these instruments, with a view to their early entry into force.

14. We recognize that the increase in manifestations of violence, particularly those whose victims are children and adolescents, in the home, in schools, in institutions and on the streets, is one of the most serious problems affecting our societies. On the occasion of the celebration in 2000 of the International Year for the Culture of Peace, we reaffirm our commitment, both individually and collectively, to design policies and take additional measures to tackle the problem of violence, including through more rigorous controls on access to and possession of weapons, the implementation in schools of programmes of education for peace and tolerance, the organization of public awareness campaigns and the development of cooperation with the mass media and the entertainment industry in order to avoid the promotion and dissemination of a culture of violence.

15. We are aware of the importance of tackling the drug problem, based on the principle of shared responsibility for solving it and in exercise of our respective sovereignties, and we agree to continue Ibero-American cooperation within the framework of the Action Plan on Drugs between Latin America and the European Union.

To this end, we will continue promoting the development of programmes for the detection and prevention of the traffic in and the use of drugs, especially in schools, as well as supporting ongoing mass publicity campaigns about the harmful effects of drug abuse and tackling the conditions which give rise to this social problem.

We also attach special importance to the holding of the third meeting of the Mechanism for Coordination and Cooperation against Illegal Drugs between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Bolivia during the first half of 2001.

16. Without prejudice to the role of the State, we recognize the important contributions of civil society to policies and programmes for children and adolescents. We agree on the need to encourage civil society to become involved in promoting and protecting the rights of children and adolescents through established legal channels.

17. We reject the manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and intolerance that still persist and therefore emphasize the importance of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which offers an opportunity for the international community to look for appropriate answers to this problem.

18. We shall promote the strengthening of coordination and cooperation with the international financial institutions and organizations, with a view to taking the action and fulfilling the commitments we have undertaken.

We also advocate working with creditors to find an effective, just and lasting solution to the external debt problem, paying particular attention to the heavily indebted countries of the Ibero-American community, so that indebtedness ceases to be an obstacle to their economic and social development and so that they can attend to the pressing needs of their populations.

We propose that the international financial institutions should improve credit facilities through transparent, mutually agreed, non-discriminatory mechanisms which will help countries in difficulties quickly to become solvent again and to regain access to international financial markets.

19. We welcome the efforts of Spain and Portugal to increase their Official Development Assistance and we appeal to the other developed countries to take similar measures, thereby halting the decline of recent years and increasing the flow of resources to social development, particularly for children and adolescents.

20. We acknowledge the progress made towards integration and agree on the need to redouble our efforts to consolidate the regional integration processes in the Americas and in Europe.

We express our readiness to take an active part in strengthening the strategic alliance between our two regions, in keeping with the commitments made at the

First Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1999, and in preparing for the Second Summit, to be held in Spain in 2002. We recognize the importance of the inclusion of Spain and Portugal in the third phase of European economic and monetary union, which will have a positive impact on relations between the European Union and Ibero-America.

21. We commit our Governments to consulting and coordinating with one another in the preparatory process for the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to be held in 2001 to review the progress made in implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action adopted at the 1990 World Summit for Children and to outline an agenda for the United Nations in this field for the coming years.

**Ibero-American Cooperation**

22. On the occasion of our Tenth Summit in Panama City and in view of the commitments made at the Oporto and Havana Summits, we welcome the progress made in the area of Ibero-American cooperation, culminating in the launching of the Secretariat for Ibero-American Cooperation (SECIB).

23. We draw attention to the adoption of the SECIB work plan for the coming year, its budget and the weighting of the contributions which member States will have to make to its financing, as well as its organizational structure and the appointment of the officials who, in conjunction with the Secretary of SECIB, will have the important task of helping to strengthen the Ibero-American cooperation system.

24. We reiterate our pledge to streamline the procedures for ratification, where appropriate, of the Protocol to the Agreement on Cooperation in the Framework of the Ibero-American Conference, which governs the establishment of the Secretariat for Ibero-American Cooperation (SECIB), thereby enabling the member States to fulfil their financial commitments to its operation.

25. We are especially grateful to the Government of Spain for the support given to SECIB to enable it to begin its activities.

26. We acknowledge the work done by the following ongoing programmes and projects:

- Ibero-American Educational Television (TEIB)
- Programme of cooperation in the development of doctoral programmes and the supervision of doctoral theses (MUTIS fellowships)
- Adult Literacy and Basic Education Programme (PAEBA), which is being extended to Paraguay
- Science and Technology for Development programme (CYTED)
- Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (Indigenous Peoples' Fund)
- Programme of cooperation in the development of national systems to evaluate the quality of education
- Ibero-American Programme for Cooperation in the Joint Design of Vocational Training Systems (IBERFOP)

- Ibero-American Programme for the Retraining of Educational Administrators (IBERMADE)
- Programme for the development of audio-visual capabilities in support of the construction of an Ibero-American audio-visual space (IBERMEDIA)
- Network of Ibero-American Diplomatic Archives (RADI)
- Centre for Strategic Urban Development (CIDEU)
- Programme of support for the development of Ibero-American archives (ADAI)
- Ibero-American programme of inter-agency cooperation for small and medium-sized businesses (IBERPYME)
- Ibero-American quality control programme (FUNDIBQ)
- Programme of the Association of Ibero-American National Libraries (ABINIA)
- Integrated catalogue of books for sale in Ibero-America (RILVI)
- Programme of the Ibero-American Forum of National Administrators of Public Libraries.

27. We draw attention to the award, within the framework of this Summit, of the Ibero-American prizes for quality of the Ibero-American quality control programme (FUNDIBQ), whose purpose is to promote excellence in quality control in Ibero-American companies.

28. In view of the conclusion of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Programme for Youth (PRADJAL), we express appreciation for the activities carried out under the programme, which helped to promote, encourage and strengthen Ibero-American cooperation on youth issues.

29. We welcome the establishment of the Ibero-American School of Government and Public Policy, which will initially have offices in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Portugal and Spain and for which SECIB will act as technical secretariat.

30. We welcome the start-up of activities of the Ibero-American network of theatres and concert halls (IBERESCENA) and the Ibero-American association of government civil defence and protection agencies, as well as the presentation at the Ibero-American level of the Andean Regional Programme for Risk Prevention and Mitigation (PREANDINO).

31. In the framework of this Summit devoted to children and adolescents, we reaffirm our willingness to continue working together on the development of programmes and projects which promote, inter alia, education and the use of science and technology for the benefit of present and future generations. In this context, we support initiatives related to the implementation of policies to strengthen the rights and enhance the abilities of children and adolescents.

Accordingly, we express our satisfaction at the results achieved in the region by the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

32. We instruct SECIB to study the opportunities and prospects for collaboration in the area of inter-university cooperation, with a view to analysing its possible inclusion in the Ibero-American cooperation agenda.

33. Aware of the challenges which the information society presents for our peoples, we encourage the presentation of initiatives which, through cooperation and the use of information and communication technologies, will lead to a genuine Ibero-American virtual community (CIBEROAMERICA), paying special attention to placing products in our languages on networks and to the incorporation of the new technologies into education, so as to create an Ibero-American education portal.

34. We reiterate our satisfaction at the results of this first decade of Ibero-American cooperation, which has helped to strengthen the ties of solidarity and identity among our nations. In this context, we agree on the need for SECIB to conduct an evaluation of the Ibero-American cooperation system, so that it can be improved and strengthened as this new phase begins.

35. We Heads of State and Government endorse the contents of the declarations, outcomes and decisions of the ministerial meetings held in the context of the Tenth Ibero-American Summit, in particular the following:

- Sixth Ibero-American meeting of ministers and senior officials with responsibility for women's policies
- Second meeting of ministers and senior authorities for science and technology of the Ibero-American community and eighth scientific conference of the CYTED programme
- Third Ibero-American Conference of Ministers for Public Administration and Reform of the State
- Tenth Ibero-American Conference on Education
- Tenth Ibero-American Conference of Ministers for Youth
- Fifth Ibero-American forum of ministers for agriculture
- Fourth meeting of ministers for culture of Ibero-America
- Third Ibero-American meeting of ministers for the economy or ministers of finance
- Fifth meeting of ministers for public works and transport of Ibero-America
- Ninth general assembly of ministers and senior authorities for housing and urban development of Latin America and the Caribbean and fifth Ibero-American forum of ministers and senior authorities for the housing and urban development sector
- Second meeting of ministers of health of Ibero-America
- Second Ibero-American Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials with Responsibility for Children and Adolescents.

36. In this context, we are gratified at the organization of other forums, seminars, initiatives and activities of the Ibero-American community which have helped to enrich and strengthen this Summit, in particular the following:

- Meeting of Ibero-American authors of books for children and adolescents

- Seventh Ibero-American meeting of journalists
- Seminar on public policies in support of PYMES
- Annual meeting of the IBERPYME programme
- Presentation of the "Children's Voices" survey (UNICEF)
- Sixth regular general assembly of the Ibero-American Sports Council
- Barcelona Declaration, Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO)
- Twelfth meeting of presidents of Ibero-American business organizations
- Ibero-American trade union summit
- Regional seminar on children and adolescents with disabilities, Panama Declaration "Disability: A Human Rights Issue"
- Twelfth Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries
- Fifth meeting of ministers of the Presidency and equivalents of Ibero-America
- Fourth meeting of authorities responsible for medicines
- Fifth Ibero-American Conference on the Family
- Preparatory meeting for the fourth summit meeting of supreme court presidents of Ibero-America.

We instruct SECIB, bearing in mind the results achieved at this Tenth Summit and at the Second Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials with Responsibility for Children and Adolescents, to prepare an Ibero-American agenda for children and adolescents which reflects the priorities identified and the common position of the Ibero-American nations.

We also pledge to strengthen the role of national and international institutions responsible for children and young people, with a view to designing comprehensive policies in the Ibero-American community.

We note with satisfaction the presentation of proposals for Ibero-American cooperation projects related to the central theme of this Summit on children and adolescents, and we encourage the presentation of other viable project proposals in this area.

We instruct SECIB, in coordination with the secretariat pro tempore and cooperation officials, to work for the adoption of the above projects and to promote fund-raising for them within Ibero-America and internationally.

We invite all Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries to attend the Eleventh Summit, to be held in Peru in 2001.

We express our gratitude to Her Excellency Ms. Mireya Moscoso, President of the Republic of Panama, and to the Panamanian people for the warm and friendly hospitality extended to us in Panama City.

Panama City, 18 November 2000

## Panama Declaration

## "United for children and adolescents, the basis of justice and equity in the new millennium"

*(Signed)* Fernando De La Rua
President of the Argentine Republic

*(Signed)* Hugo Banzer Suárez
President of the Republic of Bolivia

*(Signed)* Fernando Henrique Cardoso
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

*(Signed)* Ricardo Lagos
President of the Republic of Chile

*(Signed)* Andrés Pastrana Arango
President of the Republic of Colombia

*(Signed)* Miguel Angel Rodríguez Echeverría
President of the Republic of Costa Rica

*(Signed)* Fidel Castro Ruz
President of the Council of State and of the Government of the Republic of Cuba

*(Signed)* Gustavo Noboa Bejarano
President of the Republic of Ecuador

*(Signed)* Francisco Flores Pérez
President of the Republic of El Salvador

*(Signed)* His Majesty Juan Carlos I
King of Spain

*(Signed)* José María Aznar
President of the Spanish Government

*(Signed)* Alfonso Portillo
President of the Republic of Guatemala

*(Signed)* Carlos Flores
President of the Republic of Honduras

*(Signed)* Ernesto Zedillo Ponce De León
President of the United Mexican States

*(Signed)* Leopoldo Navarra
Vice-President of the Republic of Nicaragua

*(Signed)* Mireya Moscoso
President of the Republic of Panama

*(Signed)* Luis Angel González Macchi
President of the Republic of Paraguay

*(Signed)* Fernando de Trazegules Granda
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru

*(Signed)* Jorge Fernando Branco De Sampaio
President of the Portuguese Republic

*(Signed)* Antonio Guterres
Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic

*(Signed)* Hipólito Mejia
President of the Dominican Republic

*(Signed)* Jorge Batlle Ibáñez
President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay

*(Signed)* Hugo Chávez Frias
President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

# Annex II

## Declarations adopted at the preparatory meetings for the Tenth Ibero-American Summit

### Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries on the anniversary of the birth of José Martí

The date 28 January 2003 will mark the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of José Martí, a distinguished Ibero-American thinker of the nineteenth century, whose ideas continue to be as relevant as ever now, at the start of the third millennium.

Martí's work occupies an important place in history, alongside that of the eminent national heroes and thinkers of the Ibero-American world who helped forge our cultural and political identity and left us a legacy of their thoughts and actions.

Accordingly, we Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Panama City on the occasion of the Tenth Ibero-American Summit, call for celebrations in honour of José Martí and recommend that, as part of these events, significant efforts be made to publish a variety of works in order to bring the ideas and teachings of the leading national heroes and thinkers to the attention of our citizens.

Panama, 18 November 2000

### Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries concerning the convening of a forum of ministers of the environment

We Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Panama City on the occasion of the Tenth Ibero-American Summit, take note of Spain's offer to organize the first forum of ministers of the environment of the Ibero-American community during the first half of 2001.

Panama, 18 November 2000

### Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries concerning terrorism*

We Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Panama City on the occasion of the Tenth Ibero-American Summit, reiterate our commitment to working together resolutely, using every legal means available to a State based on the rule of law, to combat all types of terrorist action, since the latter undermines peaceful and democratic coexistence in the nations affected by that scourge.

* Cuba dissociated itself from this resolution.

Furthermore, we strongly condemn terrorism and reject the actions carried out in Spain by the terrorist group ETA and, at the same time, wish to place on record our support for and solidarity with the people and Government of Spain.

Panama, 18 November 2000

## Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries concerning the Panama Canal

We Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Panama City on the occasion of the Tenth Ibero-American Summit, are pleased to note that the Panama Canal is operating smoothly under Panamanian administration, that the Republic of Panama is fully established as a sovereign State and that its national identity and democratic vocation — both of which are vital in order to further and deepen the relations and historic ties that bind Panama to the Ibero-American community of nations — are growing stronger.

We recognize the importance of the Panama Canal for trade and world shipping, on the threshold of the new century, and we welcome the measures taken by the Panamanian Government to ensure that the Canal operates smoothly, that it is used continuously and safely by all nations of the world and that it is modernized. Furthermore, we underscore the importance of respecting and strengthening the Canal's neutrality.

We support the actions proposed by Panama to ensure that the areas adjacent to the Canal are cleaned up in order to eliminate any risk to life, health, human safety and the environment posed by unexploded ordnance and contaminants remaining in the areas handed over to Panama.

Panama, 18 November 2000

## Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries concerning the convening of a forum of experts on children

We Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Panama on the occasion of the Tenth Ibero-American Summit, note with satisfaction the proposal by the Argentine Republic to convene a meeting of experts in Buenos Aires to consider in depth the serious problem of "the international abduction of children by one of their parents", referred to in paragraph 10 (d) of the Panama Declaration.

Panama, 18 November 2000

## Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries concerning the convening of an intellectual property forum

We Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Panama City on the occasion of the Tenth Ibero-American Summit, consider that it would be useful for SECIB to convene an Ibero-American forum on intellectual property, given the new digital environment, taking into account the treaties and work of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Panama, 18 November 2000

## Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries calling on the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean to evaluate the current situation of children

We Heads of State and Government of the 21 Ibero-American countries, meeting in Panama City, Republic of Panama, on the occasion of the Tenth Ibero-American Summit, have agreed to ask the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to carry out, in consultation with the countries concerned and in coordination with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Secretariat for Ibero-American Cooperation (SECIB), an assessment of the current situation of children in Ibero-America, in order to identify specific goals to enhance current trends regarding, inter alia, education, health, health facilities and the elimination of child labour.

This evaluation will be helpful in determining the commitments to be assumed next year by the countries of our region at the twenty-fifth special session of the United Nations, which will review the progress made in implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action adopted at the 1990 World Summit for Children, and outline an agenda for the United Nations in that area for the coming years.

Panama, 18 November 2000

## Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries concerning the Malvinas

We Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Panama City on the occasion of the Tenth Ibero-American Summit, reaffirm the need for the Government of the Argentine Republic and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations as soon as possible with a view to finding an early solution to the dispute over sovereignty referred to as the question of the Malvinas Islands, in accordance with the provisions, objectives and resolutions of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States, including the principle of territorial integrity.

Panama, 18 November 2000

## Panama Declaration

## "United for children and adolescents, the basis of justice and equity in the new millennium"

*(Signed)* Fernando De La Rua
President of the Argentine Republic

*(Signed)* Hugo Banzer Suárez
President of the Republic of Bolivia

*(Signed)* Fernando Henrique Cardoso
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

*(Signed)* Ricardo Lagos
President of the Republic of Chile

*(Signed)* Andrés Pastrana Arango
President of the Republic of Colombia

*(Signed)* Miguel Angel Rodríguez Echeverría
President of the Republic of Costa Rica

*(Signed)* Fidel Castro Ruz
President of the Council of State and of the Government of the Republic of Cuba

*(Signed)* Gustavo Noboa Bejarano
President of the Republic of Ecuador

*(Signed)* Francisco Flores Pérez
President of the Republic of El Salvador

*(Signed)* His Majesty Juan Carlos I
King of Spain

*(Signed)* José María Aznar
President of the Spanish Government

*(Signed)* Alfonso Portillo
President of the Republic of Guatemala

*(Signed)* Carlos Flores
President of the Republic of Honduras

*(Signed)* Ernesto Zedillo Ponce De León
President of the United Mexican States

*(Signed)* Leopoldo Navarra
Vice-President of the Republic of Nicaragua

*(Signed)* Mireya Moscoso
President of the Republic of Panama

*(Signed)* Luis Angel González Macchi
President of the Republic of Paraguay

*(Signed)* Fernando de Trazegules Granda
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru

*(Signed)* Jorge Fernando Branco De Sampaio
President of the Portuguese Republic

*(Signed)* Antonio Guterres
Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic

*(Signed)* Hipólito Mejia
President of the Dominican Republic

*(Signed)* Jorge Batlle Ibáñez
President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay

*(Signed)* Hugo Chávez Frias
President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela